

# The Society

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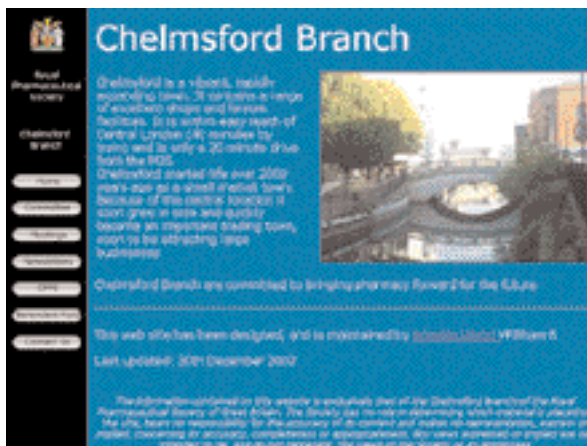
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## Thirty-five branches now have websites

More than a quarter of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's 130 branches now have their own websites. Following the launch of the first site 10 months ago, the number has now risen to 35.

The first six branch websites (Moray and Banff; Bradford; Harrow and Hillingdon; Morgannwg; Edinburgh and Lothians; Sefton) were launched in March 2002 (*PJ*, 23 March 2002, p411). They were joined within a few weeks by a further 12 branches (Birmingham; Bristol; Clwyd; Hull; Ipswich; Leeds; North Hampshire; Northern Scottish; Slough; Stockport; Torbay; West Surrey) (*PJ*, 8 June 2002, p821).

Since then, the number of live sites has almost doubled with the addition of a further 17 branches. They are: Aberdeen and North East Scottish; Bedfordshire; Brighton; Chelmsford; Colchester; Crawley; Horsham and Reigate; Doncaster; Dorset; Durham; Halifax; Northamptonshire; Northumbrian; Reading; Scunthorpe; Sheffield; South West Metropolitan; and Swindon. A number of other branches and



The home page of the Chelmsford branch website

regions of the Society have expressed an interest in developing websites and have been provided with the necessary information and access facilities.

All the branch sites can be reached by clicking on the "branches and regions" link from the "About the Society" section of the Society's website ([www.rpsgb.org.uk/society](http://www.rpsgb.org.uk/society)).

The sites are maintained by branch members, and all content is the responsibility of the branch concerned. The Society has given the branches considerable freedom to

use their sites as they wish, with no rigid rules about content or design. Each site is, however, required to include a disclaimer stating that the Society has no role in determining its content, bears no responsibility for its accuracy and makes no representation, express or implied, concerning its accuracy, completeness or appropriateness.

All the sites give details of meetings and information about the branch committee, though the amount of information offered varies from branch to branch. Some have a home page with general information about the branch, some have a news section and some provide links to other websites of interest to local pharmacists. Three of the branches (Bristol, Dorset and Sefton) provide a form or a questionnaire for feedback.

Other branches or regions wishing to have their own space on the Society's website should e-mail the website editor, Mary Snell, at [msnell@rpsgb.org.uk](mailto:msnell@rpsgb.org.uk). Each branch will need someone with word processing skills, an internet connection and FTP (file transfer protocol) software for loading files on to the site. Special web editing software is not needed, but may be used.

## Web-based guidance on computers and data protection

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society has introduced web-based versions of its guidance on pharmacy computer systems and on information protection and security. Updated guidance can now be accessed from the practice section of the Society's website ([www.rpsgb.org.uk/practice](http://www.rpsgb.org.uk/practice)), where it will be reviewed continuously and amended as necessary to reflect changes in Government policy and the progress of National Health Service projects.

The guidance was formerly published in 'Medicines, ethics and practice: a guide for pharmacists' but was omitted from the current 26th edition because of the need for revision. Because of the delay between editions of the MEP, the Society decided that the guidance should be web-based, to allow pharmacists to react to and support NHS initiatives affecting pharmacy practice as they happen.

Reflecting the change to web-based publication, the document on computer systems now includes internet links to relevant sources of information and guid-

ance available on NHS and Government websites.

An addition to the computer guidance is a paragraph stating that computer system suppliers should provide adequate training in the use of their systems during a properly planned implementation. In addition, pharmacies should provide regular training updates for staff and should have appropriate resources for training new staff.

The revision to the information protection and security guidance reflects that fact that the Data Protection Act 1998, unlike the 1984 Act it replaces, covers manual records as well as computer-based records. As a result, pharmacies using paper-based systems now need to notify the Information Commissioner (who recently succeeded the 1984 Act's Data Protection Registrar) about their use of data.

The guidance is expected to be further amended in the light of the Society's consultations with the Information Commissioner on matters such as patient access to information and the length of time for which

records must be preserved.

Pharmacists without access to the internet can obtain copies of the revised guidance from Liz Griffiths, Practice Division, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN (tel 020 7572 2408; e-mail [lgriffiths@rpsgb.org.uk](mailto:lgriffiths@rpsgb.org.uk)).

As well as the computer and data protection guidance, several other sections of the MEP's practice guidance were omitted from the 26th edition because they also needed updating. Two of these, covering blood pressure monitoring and the testing of body fluids, are expected to be added to the Society's website shortly, with others following later.

## DEATHS

**Clowes** On 5 January, Charles Richard Clowes, MRPharmS, of 2 Park Road, Buxton, Derbyshire SK17 6SG, aged 88. Mr Clowes registered in 1936. He moved to Buxton in 1948 to found Clowes Chemists, a traditional family pharmacy. He retired in 1990, handing over the reins to his pharmacist son Stuart. A memorial service will be held at St John's Church, Buxton, on Friday 17 January at 2pm.

**Orlans** On 30 November 2002, Kenneth Orlans, MRPharmS, of 2 Millfield Court, Hale, Altrincham, Cheshire WA15 9BF. Mr Orlans registered in 1938 (see Tribute, below).

## TRIBUTES

**Orlans** In a tribute to the late Kenneth Orlans (see above), BERNARD COFFMAN writes: Kenneth Orlans, who passed away peacefully on 30 November at the age of 86, was a well known Liverpool pharmacist. He qualified as a pharmacist from Liverpool after winning the prestigious Manchester scholarship. During his many years in retail pharmacy he had numerous letters published in *The Journal*.

He had a keen interest in photography and oil painting. In the 1950s his work was exhibited at a pharmacists' exhibition in Paris.

Kenneth served as a wireless operator in the Tanks during the 1939–45 war, seeing active service in Italy and Iraq. He married his apprentice Barbara in 1948. He was in demand as a locum until he moved to Hale in 1998.

He will be greatly missed by Barbara, daughter Janet Dean (an optician in Hale), son David (a GP in Liverpool), grandchildren, relatives and friends.

## DIARY

### HEADQUARTERS MEETINGS

*The following meetings take place at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's headquarters, London*

Monday 13 January  
Practice Committee 9.30am  
Meeting of Officers 4pm

Tuesday 14 January  
Education Committee 9am  
Infringements Committee 1.30pm

Wednesday 15 January  
Council reserve day 9am

### LOCAL MEETINGS

*Events listed below are meetings of branches or regions of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society. Details of all future meetings notified to The Journal appear in the Diary section of PJ Online ([www.pjonline.com/noticeboard](http://www.pjonline.com/noticeboard))*

Monday 13 January  
**East Kent** "Continuing professional development" by Fred Ayling (education division, Royal Pharmaceutical Society). Pilgrims Rest Hotel, Canterbury Road, Ashford. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

**Nottingham** "Atypical antipsychotics" by Dr David Branford (director of pharmacy, Derbyshire Mental Health Trust). School of Pharmacy, University of Nottingham. Finger buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

Tuesday 14 January  
**Coventry** "Drug information services" by Peter Golightly. Warwick Nuffield Hospital, Leamington Spa. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

**Moray and Banff** Curling. Laichmoray Hotel, Elgin. 7pm.

**Oxfordshire** "Linking pharmacists with children's clinics" by Anne Bridgman (primary care paediatric specialist nurse, East Oxford health centre). Level 3, George Pickering Postgraduate Medical Centre, John Radcliffe Hospital, Headington, Oxford. Light refreshments. 7.30 for 8pm.

Wednesday 15 January  
**Solihull** "Which supplement for which patient" by Louise Johns (nutritionist). Education Centre, Solihull Hospital, Lode Lane, Solihull. Buffet 7pm, meeting 7.45pm.

Thursday 16 January  
**Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan** Annual general meeting, followed by "Primary and secondary care interface: working together for the benefit of the patient" by Dr Bryn John and Paul Gimson. Aberdare Hall, Cathays Park, Cardiff. 6.45pm. Joint meeting with BMA.

**Gwent** "Modernisation of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society" by Sultan Dajani (community pharmacist and member of the Society's Council). Angel Hotel, Cross Street, Abergavenny. Buffet 6.45pm, meeting 7.30pm.

**Isle of Man** "Oncology services in the Isle of Man" by Dr Alan Slater (consultant oncologist, Clatterbridge Centre for Oncology). Postgraduate Medical Centre, Nobles Hospital. Hot food from 7.15pm, meeting 8pm.

**Lanarkshire** "The right medicine" by Bill Scott (chief pharmaceutical officer, Scottish Executive Health Department). Hilton Strathclyde Hotel, Bellshill. 8pm.

**North Staffordshire** Annual general meeting. Nadine Lecture Theatre, North Staffordshire Medical Institute, Hartshill, Stoke on Trent. 8pm.

**Wirral** "Pharmacists prescribing" by Clive Jackson (director, National Prescribing Centre), preceded by annual general meeting (7pm) and food (7.30pm). Postgraduate Medical Centre, Clatterbridge Hospital. 8pm.

Monday 20 January  
**Bromley** "Diabetes update" by Dr Ibrahim (consultant diabetologist, Queen Mary's Hospital). Postgraduate Centre, Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup, Buffet 7pm, meeting 8pm.

**Hull** "Tuberculosis treatment" by Ms K. Cartlich. Castle Hill. 7.30 for 8pm.

**Manchester, Salford and Trafford** "Diabetes: what can we learn from the expert patient?" by Robert Hallworth (pharmacist and expert patient) and Jayne Wood (associate director for diagnostic and support services, Pennine Acute Trust). Postgraduate Medical Centre, Manchester Royal Infirmary. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm. Joint meeting with Manchester and Salford & Trafford local pharmaceutical committees.

**North Hampshire** "How to influence your member of Parliament" by Sandra Gidley (pharmacist and Liberal Democrat MP for Romsey) Ark Centre, North Hampshire Hospital, Aldermaston Road, Basingstoke. Buffet 7.30pm, meeting 8pm.

**Slough** "Clinical nutrition" by a speaker from Abbott Laboratories. John Lister Postgraduate Centre, Wexham Park hospital, Slough. Buffet 7.15pm, meeting 8pm.